

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
August 17, 2007
Douglas, Wyoming

Members Present: Jack Corson, President
Gene Hardy, Vice President
Juan Reyes
Jim Mickelson
Joe Thomas
Patrick Zimmerer
Dalin Winters
Jim Bennage
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

Members Absent: Dave Graham
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

WDA Staff Present: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director

Introductions & called to order at 8:00 am.

Approval Minutes

Jim Bennage made note that he was at the meeting July 9 and 10 in Torrington. **Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the July 9 and 10 meeting with the addition of Jim Bennage, and the August 1 conference call. It was seconded by Joe Thomas. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

New State Vet and Assistant State Vet

Jim Schwartz introduced Walt Cook and Jim Logan. Their board is in the process of reviewing the import requirements. On August 28 at 1 p.m. there will be a meeting where they will be discussing the testing requirements. Chapter 9 rule changes where the brand inspection fees will be adjusted are currently out for public comment. These changes will fix an oversight in the legislation passed this spring.

Juan asked Jim Schwartz what caused the financial difficulties the board were experiencing. Jim indicated it was probably several things in combination and not any one thing. Some of the issues were that the cattle numbers were down, the drought, and an audit didn't find there would be a shortage.

New State Conservationist

Xavier Montoya introduced himself and gave some history of his service with SCS-now NRCS. Since being on the job, he has seen the need for a few changes. He is going to be implementing the following three priorities within his state organization; 1- Conservation training and

planning; 2 - Meeting all challengers. Older employees are retiring and younger employees don't have that knowledge; and his budget. He will be working on the Farm Bill changes; 3 – Maintain transparency by being accountable and honest.

Conservation District Water Quality Requests

Extension of the Phases I Powell Clarks-Fork 2002-2004 grant to 2009. Dani Sullivan explained the sharing of personnel between two districts and this district does now have a full-time person working for the district. She also said this plan has been rolled into another one and the funds are involved with a 319 application with DEQ. The Board discussed the possible extension and voiced then concerns. Dani also said she wished someone from their board or staff could have been at this meeting, but time didn't allow for that to happen. In visiting with Bobbie Frank, she said WACD and Dani are willing to work with the district to make sure it happens by 2009. Juan said he would think that if it were important to the district, they should have had someone at the meeting. Dani said the original amount of the grant was \$20,000 and the balance remaining is \$15,314.97. The funding spent to date has been in the last year, with none prior to that. Jim Bennage said his concern is that the plan submitted is obsolete. Jason noted there are changes forthcoming (within the next year) on 319 grants and if this money is not approved, there may be additional ramifications and they would have to re-apply for the 319 funding. Joe felt that he thinks they ought to have a one-year extension and see what happens. Dani said this contract has been extended one time. Dani said a one-year extension would be a good opportunity, but doesn't think they will get it done in that timeframe. She also said if the extension is not granted, there is a possibility of the match for the 319 grant may not be there. **Gene moved to grant the request, extending it until 2009. Motion failed due to a lack of a second. Dalin made a motion to approve the grant request, extending it until 2009. Motion seconded by Joe. President Corson asked for a roll call vote. The following voted no: Jim Mickelson, Frank Galey, Juan Reyes, and Jim Bennage. The following voted yes: Dalin Winters, Patrick Zimmerer, Gene Hardy and Joe Thomas. President voted no as the tie breaker. Motion failed. ***

The Powell Clarks-Fork Conservation District is also asking for an extension until 2009 of their 2004-2005 grant. Discussion followed and the members voiced some concerns. **Juan Reyes made a motion to approve the extension until 2009. Jim Mickelson seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

The third water quality grant extension request was from Crook County to their 2006 grant. **Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the extension and amendments as presented, with the exception of the use of funds for any refreshments. Patrick Zimmerer seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

The Lingle Ft-Laramie Conservation District is requesting the appointment of Linda Nichol to the urban position which was vacated by Earl Cross. **Juan made a motion to approve the appointment of Linda Nichol to the Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Jim Mickelson seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Intern Presentations

Michelle Crozier, Elizabeth LeSatz, and Jennifer Schomp all talked to the Board about the projects they worked on, and valuable work experience they had this summer interning with the department.

4-H Congress

Dr. Galey wanted the Board to hold on to letter regarding the 4-H congress, but it was sent to Dr. Whipple and the extension offices already. Dr. Galey said the discussion is on-going and that no decision has been made. 4-H Congress is not a new entity, they are trying to sustain it. He said the staffing of State Fair events is done the UW personnel. He went on to say they have no desire to weaken State Fair and if that would happen, they would not go forward. Juan Reyes said he can see both sides and does not want to see State Fair injured. He said it would be difficult for the congress and fair to go to the legislature for additional funding when events are being removed from one venue to another. Juan asked if the congress takes any amount of kids away from State Fair, we would be in competition. Frank said if there were a livestock judging in Laramie and then a premier judging at State Fair, which would not remove participation, it could be a win-win situation. Frank asked the board to hold off a little while until some further discussion can take place.

Board Issues and Updates

Drought Designation - Leanne Stevenson said Johnson County has asked for disaster assistance from the blizzard. Since the letter that was sent to the County Commissioners, Albany, County may send in a request, but Big Horn, Uinta, Weston, Sweetwater, Platte, Converse, Sublette, Lincoln, Washakie, and Weston countries have requested declarations.

Carbon Sequestration – Leanne said the committee sponsored a public meeting with the Chicago Credit Exchange on July 30 with Mike Walsh, the Executive Vice President. The application deadline for those interested in signing up has been extended until October 1 and the application for tillage and new seeding until September 15.

PRCA Rodeo

James Goodrich discussed the letter received from the PRCA regarding Grass Roots Rodeos. The PRCA must have a signed pledge to participate by August 20 for participation in 2008. James thinks it's something State Fair should do. He said he feels they are trying to meet the needs of small rodeos. He indicated the Advisory Board did make and approve, through a motion, to support this proposal. Jim Mickelson thinks it's going to give cowboys who are low in the ranking of 45-50, an opportunity to go to finals. **Jim Mickelson made a motion to have James notify the PRCA that we would be interested in participating. Gene Hardy seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Member Updates

Dr. Galey reminded everyone that the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team is meeting at the Game and Fish Office in Casper September 13.

Jack Corson asked John to talk about the Forest Service/ BLM tour. John said it was a great

week. Jason said anytime you can open up lines of communication and keep them open, it's always a great outcome.

The State Fair Advisory Committee will come to the November meeting to discuss their recommendations for board approval. The board would also like to have the Nature Conservancy make their presentation regarding open spaces and conservation.

Helen Jones talked out the Sage Grouse Implementation Team. This is the group put together by the Governor as a result of the Sage Grouse Summit. After a couple of meeting, they have identified 33 concerns/issues to be addressed. The team, consisting of her, John Andrikopoulos, Jason Fearneyhough and John Emmerich will be making their recommendations to the Governor by September 25. A follow-up meeting is scheduled October 7 to present the recommendation to the public.

Jim Schwartz is concerned about educating the small producers regarding vaccinating their herd. He encouraged those present to talk with neighbors, etc. regarding the need to ensure all livestock are vaccinated to ensure the safety of all Wyoming livestock.

The spill of pesticides into Wyoming waterways recently is being investigated and the department is staying on top of it.

Dalin Winters had visited with Cindy regarding the discussion among the members of the

Wyoming Business Council - Agribusiness Division into the department. Cindy was in attendance and talked about the division and handed out their recent publication showing the services available and successes of the Business Council. She had emailed John asking for some time at a board meeting to discuss this very thing. Cindy asked that she be given an opportunity to visit with the board if there is any further discussion of this movement.

Juan welcomed Xavier to Wyoming.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Corson, President

Date

Attachment: Attendance sheet
Powell Clarks Fork's two water quality grant extension requests
Crook County water quality grant extension request
Lingle Ft. Laramie's appointment request
PRCA Rodeo Proposal

- Some members who voted did not have voting privileges and the motion to correct the vote is in the September 5 conference call minutes. The motion still failed.